

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS DUBLIN 001281

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OVI](#) [OTR](#) [PREL](#) [EAID](#)

SUBJECT: FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS BOOKS, MEETS PM
AHERN

1. Summary: Former President Bill Clinton and Senator Hillary Clinton paid a private visit to Dublin August 24 - 26. While the main purpose of Clinton's trip was to promote his new book, he and the Senator also met with PM Ahern over dinner and a reception that included other ministers. Clinton publicly expressed optimism on Northern Ireland (NI) and accepted a GOI donation of approximately \$7.2 million to kick-start a cooperative HIV/AIDS program in Mozambique involving the Irish Government and the Clinton Foundation. End Summary.

=====
Clinton Meets with GOI Officials, Is Positive about Northern
Ireland Peace Process, Receives Donation
=====

2. While in Dublin, the former President and Senator Hillary Clinton met privately with PM Bertie Ahern for an hour, followed by a dinner and reception hosted by the PM. Several government ministers attended the reception, including Minister for Communications Dermot Ahern, Minister for Education Noel Dempsey, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tom Kitt, Minister for State for Europe Dick Roche, and the Attorney General Rory Brady. Prior to the reception, former President Clinton told reporters that he was in a "listening mode" for the visit and was hopeful that progress could be made in the upcoming September talks on Northern Ireland. He expressed optimism at recent constructive statements by Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams and Democratic Ulster Party (DUP) deputy leader Peter Robinson.

3. At the reception, Minister Kitt announced a contribution of \$7.2 million to kick-start a cooperative HIV/AIDS program in Mozambique involving the Irish Government and the Clinton Foundation, the former president's charitable trust.

=====
Media Reaction Positive
=====

4. At a book signing in Dublin on August 25, approximately 1,500 people queued three hours for the event. News articles focused on the former president's continued popularity in Ireland and the contents of his book. Most articles were positive and reported large crowds that met him at his stops around Dublin. Saturday's Irish Times, however, reported that a crowd jeered the Clintons outside the Clinton Centre for International Peace in Northern Ireland. Apparently, the crowd was disappointed when the Clintons left the Centre without first crossing the road to meet them.
KENNY